

CHESTER, LOCKHART, AND RIDGEWAY TELEPHONE COMPANIES REQUESTS CHANGES TO DEPRECIATION RATES

Chester, Lockhart, and Ridgeway Telephone Companies jointly filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina for approval of an increase in depreciation rates for its Digital Switching and Subscriber Carrier Plant Accounts. The Applicants propose to increase the Digital Switching depreciation rate to 12.0 % and the Subscriber Carrier depreciation rate to 12.5% with an effective date of January 1, 2002. The Applicants state that the approval of these changes will not affect its telephone rates, nor will the companies seek any increase in its telephone rates in the calendar year 2003 as a result of this filing.

A copy of the Application is on file in the offices of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, Synergy Business Park, Saluda Building, 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina and is available through Margaret M. Fox, Esquire, McNAIR LAW FIRM, P.A., Post Office Box 11390, Columbia, South Carolina 29211.

Any person who wishes to testify and present evidence at a hearing, if scheduled, should notify Gary E. Walsh, Executive Director, at the address below, and Margaret M. Fox, Esquire, at the previously stated address, in writing, on or before **December 31, 2001**, and indicate the amount of time required for his presentation. Please refer to **Docket No. 2002-382-C**.

Any person who wishes to present his views to the Public Service Commission may do so in writing, on or before **December 31, 2001**. Please refer to **Docket No. 2002-382-C**.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter, as a party of record should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Procedures, on or before **December 31, 2001**. Please refer to **Docket No. 2002-382-C**.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's Procedures should contact the Commission by dialing (803) 896-5105.

GARY E. WALSH
Executive Director
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
P.O. Drawer 11649
Columbia South Carolina 29211

06-DEC-02